

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 140515
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-03 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 L-03 INR-10
NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PCH-02 AID-05 /102 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----060932 030036Z /64

O 022238Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
CIA WASHDC 0000
JCS WASHDC 0000
NSC WASHDC 0000
USCINCEUR
DOD
USICA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, JUNE 2

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 2, 1978.
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA SEEKING U.S.
PERMISSION TO GIVE ARMS TO ZAIRE AND SOMALIA?

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A. WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED WITH SAUDI ARABIA, OR TO TAKE IN
WHAT YOU DIDN'T ASK ME, WHICH IS IRAN, THE POSSIBILITY
THAT ARMS OF U.S. ORIGIN WOULD BE SUPPLIED TO ANY
INTERNATIONAL FORCE OR PAN-AFRICAN FORCE IN THIS REGARD.

Q. WOULD YOU AGREE TO IT IF THEY ASKED FOR IT?

A. I DONT KNOW. YOU HAVE GOT TO TAKE IT ONE STEP AT A
TIME. WE HAVE NOT YET HAD THAT DISCUSSION.

Q. HAVE THE FRENCH DISCUSSED IT WITH THEM?

A. I AM SAYING WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY WITH
THEM, THE USE OF U.S. ORIGIN ARMS FOR SUCH PAN-AFRICAN

FORCE.

Q. HAVE THEY ASKED YOU TO DISCUSS IT?

A. THAT WOULD IMPLY THAT STARTS A DISCUSSION. I ALSO
WOULD NOT WANT TO SAY TO YOU THAT WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED
IT, BECAUSE WE HAVE, THE GENERAL CONCERNS THAT THE SAUDIS

HAVE ABOUT EVENTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF AFRICA. BUT THAT IS A DIFFERENT QUESTION.

Q. HAVE WE DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH THE FRENCH, OR HAVE THE FRENCH DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH THE SAUDIS AND THE IRANIANS?

A. THE TRANSFER OF U.S. ORIGIN ARMS? I DONT KNOW. I LITERALLY AM NOT PREPARED ON THAT QUESTION. LET ME SAY, IN ANY CASE, THAT SUCH A TRANSFER WOULD NOT BE A MATTER THAT WE COULD UNDERTAKE ON OUR OWN WITHOUT AT LEAST CONSULTING AND WOULD NOT WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH CONGRESS.

Q. WHY?
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A. BECAUSE WE WOULD NOT, AS A MATTER OF POLICY.

Q. BUT THERE IS NO STATUTORY REQUIREMENT.

A. I HAVE ALREADY SAID, WE CANNOT AND WOULD NOT.

Q. WOULD THERE BE ANY POLICY DIFFERENCE? ASSUMING YOU WERE GOING TO GET THE APPROVAL OF CONGRESS, APPROVAL FOR A TRANSFER TO A THIRD COUNTRY, WHAT IS THE POLICY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUPPLYING THE ARMS FOR SUCH A FORCE OURSELVES RATHER THAN GOING THROUGH THE THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFER ROUTE?

A. QUITE FRANKLY, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES WHICH ARE YET TO BE FULLY DISCUSSED. THE PROBLEM IS, LIKE MOST THINGS, WE HAVE NOT YET EMERGED FULL-BLOWN FROM ANYBODY'S BROW WITH A FULL PROGRAM. WE ARE DISCUSSING POSSIBILITIES. AND THIS IS WHAT WE ARE STILL DOING, IS DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITIES.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE AMERICAN MILITARY MISSION GOING TO SOMALIA?

A. I CAN CONFIRM THAT IN THE COURSE OF INTENSIVE EXCHANGES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED US WITH ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL

NOT USE FORCE AGAINST ANY OTHER COUNTRY EXCEPT IN DEFENSE OF ITS OWN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED TERRITORY.

THIS WAS IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S REQUEST THAT
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AS A CONDITION FOR EXPANDED U.S. AID, THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKE TO RESPECT ITS NEIGHBOR'S BORDERS AND TERRITORY IN THE FUTURE.

ON THE QUESTION OF A MILITARY SURVEY MISSION, IT IS COMMON PRACTICE FOR US TO HAVE THE RESULTS OF A MILITARY SURVEY TEAM BEFORE PROVIDING ARMS TO ANOTHER COUNTRY.

ON THAT, THE DETAILS OF SUCH A SURVEY MISSION ARE STILL BEING DISCUSSED WITH THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT AND WE THEREFORE WILL NOT BE IN ANY POSITION TO COMMENT ON THE POSSIBLE SUPPLY OF ANY SPECIFIC ITEMS PENDING THE VISIT OF THE TEAM AND ITS REPORT.

ANY ACTUAL MILITARY SALES TO SOMALIA WOULD REQUIRE A PRIOR PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION MAKING SOMALIA ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH SALES.

WE HAVE KEPT APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA, BUT WE HAVE NOT MADE ANY DECISIONS, OR TAKEN ANY ACTIONS AS YET, ON MILITARY SUPPLY WHICH WOULD INVOLVE FORMAL CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS.

AGAIN, OBVIOUSLY, THEY WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN DEPENDING ON THE FINDING OF THE TEAM. I DONT HAVE A DATE FOR THE TEAM GOING OUT.

Q. WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS, SAUDI ARABIA'S OR THE UNITED STATES?

A. IT'S BEEN OURS.

Q. THIS IS OUR IDEA TO ARM SOMALIA? IT WASN'T AT THE URGING OR AT LEAST THE SUGGESTION OF THE FRIENDLY ARAB UNCLASSIFIED

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AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AS THE PRESS SAYS?

A. THE DECISION WAS TAKEN IN PRINCIPLE A LONG TIME AGO, PRIOR TO THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF THE SOMALI FORCES IN THAT AREA BY THE PRESIDENT. IT WAS, AS YOU KNOW, COUNTERED AT THE TIME OF THE OPEN INVASION OF THE OGADEN, AND THE PRESIDENT HAS SINCE -- WE HAVE MADE IT

PRETTY CLEAR, AS HE SAID IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE -- AND

WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR ELSEWHERE -- THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN.

Q. BUT THERE ARE SAUDI CONCERNS? "THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING" HAS BEEN THE SAUDI CRY THAT YOU ARE HARKENING TO.

A. LET ME SAY THAT CONCERNS THAT HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED TO US BY A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ABOUT SOVIET PENETRATION IN THE AREA, AND THE SAUDIS ARE VERY EXPLICIT ON THAT, SO ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER PEOPLE IN THAT AREA. THE EGYPTIANS.

Q. ARE WE WILLING NOW TO APPROVE ALSO THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFERS TO SOMALIA?

A. AGAIN, I DONT HAVE A QUESTION HAVING ARISEN ON THE QUESTION OF THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFERS. I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE IT.

Q. CAN YOU BRING US UP TO DATE ON THE AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS POLICY, ESTABLISHING THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES? THERE ARE REPORTS INDICATING MORE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ARE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.
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A. WE HAVE INDICATED IN THE PAST OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT POLICY. OUR POSITION ON THE SETTLEMENT POLICY IS VERY CLEAR.

Q. THERE IS NOTHING NEW ON IT?

A. NO. I HAVE NOTHING NEW TO SAY TO YOU EXCEPT THE REITERATION OF OUR STANDARD POLICY, WHICH IS WE DO NOT THINK THEY ARE IN THE INTEREST OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN THE AREA.

Q. ONE OF THE ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS TODAY RUNS A STORY SAYING THAT A STUDY HAS BEGUN WITHIN THIS ADMINISTRATION ON A FORMAL, RATIFIABLE DEFENSE ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL, WHICH WILL INVOLVE ULTIMATELY U.S. NAVAL BASES IN THAT AREA, AND A FIRM, WRITTEN DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP. IS THERE SUCH A STUDY UNDER WAY?

A. YOU KNOW, EVERY TIME THE STORY COMES UP, I'M ALWAYS HESITANT TO OUT FLAT SAY NO UNTIL I GO ASK AGAIN. IT HAS BEEN A FLAT NO UNTIL NOW. I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION.

I DONT KNOW OF ANY SUCH STUDY. CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS.

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